

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

In the Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A soap preparation comprising a soap, at least one film or backbone-forming polymer and air bubbles, characterized in that it is solid and is present in the form of sheets or strips whose thickness does not exceed 5 mm

wherein the film or backbone-forming polymer is a natural and/or synthetic polymer which is selected from the group consisting of polyamides, polyacrylates, polyamino acids, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycols, polyvinylpyrrolidones, pullulan, alginic acid, starch, cellulose, cellulose derivatives and mixtures thereof.

2. (Original) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is elastic and plastic.

3. (Previously presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the soap is a substance from the group of water-soluble sodium, potassium or ammonium salts of saturated or unsaturated higher fatty acids, of resin acids of colophony, of naphthenic acids, of surfactants or a mixture thereof.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the soap is a foam former.

7. (Previously presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the air bubbles constitute 0.5 to 98% of the volume of the soap preparation.

8. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it has a density between 1 and 0.05 g/cm³.

9. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it has a density between 0.7 and 0.1 g/cm³.

10. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the expandability is less than 25%.

11. (Currently amended) A method of producing a solid soap preparation which comprises a soap, at least one film or backbone-forming polymer and air bubbles,

wherein the film or backbone-forming polymer is a natural and/or synthetic polymer which is selected from the group consisting of polyamides, polyacrylates, polyamino acids, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycols, polyvinylpyrrolidones, pullulan, alginic acid, starch, cellulose, cellulose derivatives and mixtures thereof

comprising the steps:

- a) mixing of soap and film or backbone-forming polymer in water,
- b) stirring this aqueous mixture in the presence of air giving a foamy mass,
- c) coating a traveling web or filling hollow bodies or deep-drawn blisters with the foamy mass,
- d) drying the coated traveling web or the filled hollow bodies or deep-drawn blister, during which the solid soap preparation is formed.

12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that an additional compression step can be carried out after the drying step.

13. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the resulting soap preparation is divided into individual doses.

14. (Original) The use of a solid soap preparation which comprises a soap, at least one film or backbone-forming polymer and air bubbles for use in toilet bowls, wash basins, washing machines, dishwashers, in bodycare, for cleansing the face, hair washing, hand washing, as WC cleaners, as kitchen cleaners, bath cleaners, window cleaners, multipurpose cleaners, stain removers, drain cleaners, sanitary cleaners, car window cleaners, floor cleaners, furniture care compositions, in the industrial sector, for the cleaning of shoes, as additive to window cleaning liquid containers in cars, in hotels, while traveling, in hospitals.
15. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the soap is a surfactant or an interface-active substance.
16. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 10 characterized in that the expandability is between 2 and 10%.
17. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation of claim 1, wherein the thickness is between 100 μm and 2 mm.
18. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation of claim 1, wherein the preparation has a dissolution time in an aqueous medium is less than 15 seconds.
19. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation of claim 18, wherein the preparation has a dissolution time in an aqueous medium is less than 5 seconds.
20. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation of claim 5, density between 0.7 and 0.1 g/cm³, an expandability between 2 and 10%, a thickness between 100 μm and 2 mm and has a dissolution time in an aqueous medium of less than 5 seconds.